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The Library Chronicle.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF SHAKESPEAREANA.¹

By HENRY R. TEDDER, Librarian of the Athenæum Club.

THE best arrangement of the multitudinous literature connected with Shakespeare has been upon my mind for some years, but my attention has recently been practically drawn to the subject by having been asked to supply a select bibliography to be appended to an elaborate article on Shakespeare by Professor Thomas Spencer Baynes, which was to appear in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. The enormous mass of literature connected with the life and writings of our national dramatist is almost beyond belief. The great collection at the Birmingham Free Library, which replaces that destroyed by fire in 1879, now extends to more than 7,000 volumes. This is the most voluminous series which exists, but I calculate that a complete collection in all languages would amount to about 11,000 volumes. As it was, of course, impossible to include a perfect list of all these works in such a publication as the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, severe selection became necessary. To go through all this literature was a very laborious undertaking, increased by the difficulty of seeing many of the books. The titles had to be compressed, and, as a further economy of space, articles in periodicals not issued separately, and modern critical editions of single plays were not included. Only those plays usually to be found in the collective editions were specially noticed. The next point which had to be considered was the arrangement, as without well ordered classification such a list would have been much lessened in value.

There is no want of excellent Shakespearean bibliographies, but these are either in alphabetical or chronological form; no classified bibliography has yet been attempted. The arrangement I finally decided upon may be seen in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* (vol. xxi., pp. 768-771). It is the first essay at a select classified bibliography of Shakespeare, in which the titles of only the best books are presented in systematic order. Mr. Cutter's plan (see *Library Journal*, ix., pp. 137-9) contains many useful suggestions, and I have to express my acknowledgments to its accomplished compiler. I must not omit a word of warm thanks to my friend, Mr. Sam. Timmins, who most generously rendered me much assistance from his vast stores of Shakespearean lore.

As I hope that my experience may be made of further practical benefit to Shakespearean scholars and bibliographers, I have extended and re-arranged the

¹ Read at the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, London, 1886.

classification in order to comprehend the titles of all the books, pamphlets, articles in reviews, &c., connected in any way with the greatest name in all literature. The plan of the following classification explains itself. It is understood that the titles should be arranged in chronological order under the headings, unless otherwise indicated.

SCHEME OF THE CLASSIFICATION.

- I. Collective editions of the plays and poems in chronological order.
- II. Collections of two or more plays, not being complete editions.
- III. Editions of separate plays arranged in alphabet of titles, *e.g.*, "All's well that ends well," "Antony and Cleopatra," &c.
 - (a.) Those usually to be found in the collective editions.
 - (b.) Those ascribed to Shakespeare.

[Under the title of each play the various editions would fall in chronological order. The literary texts would be divided from the versions altered for the stage and other purposes.]
- IV. Editions of the poetical pieces. [The same remarks apply.]
- V. Pseudo-Shakespearean prose.
- VI. Selections and readings [including Bowdlerized editions].
- VII. Translations (arranged chronologically under languages, German, French, &c.).
 - (a.) Collective editions.
 - (b.) Separate plays and poetical pieces.
- VIII. Criticism, illustration and comment.
 - (a.) General works.
 - (b.) Special works on separate plays and poetical pieces. [arranged under the title of the plays, etc.]
 - (1.) The literature of the plays usually to be found in the collective editions.
 - (2.) That of the plays ascribed to Shakespeare.
 - (3.) That of the poetry.
 - (c.) Special subjects [such as]
 - (1.) Falstaff.
 - (2.) Humour.
 - (3.) Female characters.
- IX. Language [including grammars and glossaries.]
- X. Quotations.
- XI. Concordances.
- XII. Probable sources [*i.e.*, the romances, plays, tales, histories, etc., supposed to have been used by Shakespeare].
- XIII. Special knowledge ; [such as] (a.) Angling ; (b.) Bible ; (c.) Botany ; (d.) Emblems ; (e.) Folk Lore ; (f.) Law ; (g.) Learning ; (h.) Medicine ; (i.) Military matters ; (j.) Natural History ; (k.) Philosophy ; (l.) Printing ; (m.) Psychology ; (n.) Sea.
- XIV. Periodicals.
- XV. Shakespeare Societies and their publications.
- XVI. Music.
- XVII. Pictorial illustrations [*i.e.*, Collections. An extensive series of separate prints would have to be specially arranged].

XVIII. Biography,

- (a.) General works.
- (b.) Special works ; [such as] Autographs and Will, etc. ; (2.) Birth-day ; (3.) Bones and Tomb ; (4.) Crabtree ; (5.) Deer-stealing ; (6.) Genealogy and Arms ; (7.) Ghost Belief ; (8.) Name ; (9.) Occupation, (see, also, special knowledge above) ; (10.) Religion.

XIX. Portraits and Bust.

XX. Shakespeare Allusion Books ; [such as those mentioned in Ingleby's *Centurie of Praye*].

XXI. Literary and Dramatic History.

- (a.) General, including English speaking countries.
- (b.) In Germany.
- (c.) France and other countries.

XXII. Shakespeare Jubilees and Festivals.

XXIII. Ireland controversy.

XXIV. Payne-Collier Controversy.

XXV. Bacon-Shakespeare controversy.

XXVI. Other forgeries and heterodox opinions.

XXVII. Shakespearean fiction.

XXVIII. Shakespearean squibs, almanacs, fly-leaves, etc.

XXIX. Bibliographies and catalogues.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS IN BOOKBINDING.¹

By Mr. J. ZAEHNSDORF.

I FEEL my position here to be a very critical one ; if I take my post as a bookbinder, I must guard the trade, and say a few things that may offend you ; I will then, Sir, with your permission, discard my profession for the time, and speak as a member of your association, willing to give his experience, in return for the courtesy he has received at your hands, and to bind more closely the ties of friendship with the friends he has made.

The task I have undertaken is an onerous one ; it was placed in my hands only last Friday, and the subject is one of great difficulty to expound, inasmuch as that which serves for one class of library would be altogether out of character for another.

I can hardly expect that all my suggestions, or rather recommendations (for perhaps I am incapable of suggesting any new methods for bookbinding), will be carried out, but I trust my Paper will be of sufficient interest and that a few of the hints may be adopted to your benefit.

It is not my intention to take up your time in suggesting any practical methods for the artistic or rather decorative part of binding ; although, with your help, I have no doubt we should succeed in getting some of our wealthy patrons to take more interest in the "Art of Bookbinding," and thus give employment to the many in our profession who are now waiting for work ; but I will confine myself entirely to that portion with which you are more or less connected, viz. : that of strength.

There is no doubt that the strength of a bound book lies like every other built-up

¹ Read at the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, London, 1886.

fabric, *in* the foundation, for if the foundation be good, the finished building will be firm ; and I take it that the foundation of a bound book is *in the sewing*.

I pass over the pressing or rolling, because pressing only gives the book a better or firmer feel, and it has nothing to do with its strength.

If we examine a book, bound say 200 years ago, we find the whole of the binder's craft in the sewing. The thread used was made from hemp or flax ; now we often use a material made of, well, hardly hemp. Each sheet was sewn *round* the bands, of which there were never less than four, in many cases six, eight, and more, and we even find the headband worked round a cord which formed and gave further strength to hold all together.

Now, if a book be sewn with bad thread on three bad cords, it is considered by the binder to be very well done ; and if the book should fall to pieces in a short time, it is nothing more than he expected and he gets the book back for rebinding, to his benefit and your cost.

I have here a sample of the hempen thread which ought to be used. I should like it to be understood that I speak of what is done by some houses in the trade and that I complain of none. I tell you what to look for and what to correct : the cost of such correction will rest between you and your binder.

The cost of the hempen thread per lb. is about 2s. 6d., the common thread is 1s. 6d. Arnett in the introduction to his "Art of Bookbinding" which probably you all have, quotes one of the statutes and rules of 1550 about sewing, "that the master binders do sew all their books with thread and real bands, and that, in case of infringement, the books shall be rebound and in addition a fine inflicted of £30 for each volume.

You will see that the importance of good sewing was not lost sight of by the binders of that date, as it is by those of to-day.

I will admit that the old paper is of a very different quality to that now used : the paper-maker manufactured a paper that enabled the binder to make the back of his book as firm as a wooden board, the paper being so fine and pliable that it lay down and gave little or no strain to the back. Binders do not get such paper to work upon now ; often the paper is so thick, that it is impossible to get it to lie flatly under any treatment, except that of guarding.

My first suggestion is—that your books be sewn with the best thread. To show you how little hempen thread is used, I find one manufacturer after another has stopped making thread from hemp, because there is little or no demand for it.

One of the chief reasons books are rebound, I mean modern books, is because the threads having broken, the sheets become loose and fall out, so I think you will at once see that the thread should be of good quality.

My second is that the sheets be sewn *all along* where possible. When I say that the sheets be sewn all along, I mean, that each sheet should have a thread to itself. It is a rule with many houses to make two sheets for one, thus saving half the time in sewing and thread on each book.

I have here such a sewn book ; it is sewn somewhat better than I should like to have had it done, because in these samples it is right that you should have them properly put before you, but it will give you the idea I wish to convey.

I am only surprised that such a sewn book should last so long, and that it does not fall to pieces before it is placed on the shelves.

In many cases where the sheets are of very thin paper and are only half sheets, that is eight pages instead of sixteen, it is allowable, nay almost necessary, to sew "two sheets on," because the overlay of thread in the back would be too thick to allow the book being backed in the forwarding process, but all the more necessary that they should not be sewn on less than five bands and good thread used.

My theory is, that the books should be sewn flexible, or on raised bands, if your means will allow having them so done, and if the value of the book warrants your spending the extra sum.

The expense of sewing flexible is not only in the sewing, but there is extra work throughout the whole of the processes of binding.

In flexible sewing, the thread goes round each band, so that with the ketch or chain stitch, each sheet has seven fastenings instead of two as in the ordinary sewing, and so if the thread breaks in any one portion of the sheet, it still has the other six fastenings to hold the sheet in.

This method of sewing is the best of all, but it takes time, and a careful sewer—both essential things—so that it is very seldom done in some houses, in *others never*. You will perhaps be somewhat surprised when I tell you that a few houses do not sew their books at all. I do not refer to the india-rubber method which is perhaps dying a natural death, but to the method of sawing deep cuts across the back and filling the holes with glue and cord. It is astonishing the amount of wear these books get through, and I should not wonder if you were to find on your book-shelves books so treated.

My fourth recommendation, although not so important as that on sewing, is that good boards be used. Straw boards may be very well for cloth work, or other temporary binding, but where books are to be placed in a library for hard wear, especially such wear as our Free Libraries get, I take it that only such boards as will last the longest, should be used.

I have here samples of different boards. Straw, grey, an inferior back board and the best back; here are also some French boards, which I had sent me because I had heard so much of them, but, in my opinion their best boards do not equal our best English boards.

Another weak part in binding, and one which gives very readily, is the joint. The paper is always either breaking or splitting from the book; the least strain and away it goes.

The best method when a paper joint is employed, is the one used in Germany, and one that was used many years ago (as you will see if you examine some old bindings), that is, by bringing the end papers round the first and last sheet, and sewing them with the book.

I have got this book ready to show you, but have not pasted the piece brought round the sheets, that you may better understand; when the small guard is pasted down, it binds the first sheet to the second, is unseen, and naturally prevents the start that you now can see in the fore-edge.

But this is not so good as a cloth joint, and I would suggest a "cloth" joint to all books. There are various methods of using the cloth joint, but any that depend upon the paste to hold it will sooner or later break away or split from the paper, and will then be as bad as a paper joint.

Experience has taught me that the whole strain of the boards must in some

way be relieved from the book in order to obtain the requisite strength. I have tried all sorts and conditions of joints, and have within the last three or four years adopted one which I believe to be the best method yet used. I have here such a joint; you will notice the cloth is wrapped or overcast with the section and SEWN with the sheet. When this cloth is brought back after the forwarding, and fastened to the board, it is almost impossible for it to come away—the boards move independently of the book and do not drag the sheets.

This subject of joints should command your attention, and if you think this joint is of sufficient merit, please take note of it, and instruct your binder to follow.

I pass on from joints to leather. The importance of good leather is one that must not be overlooked; do not be misled by some of the imitations now so often used. It is of importance you should know the real from the imitation, and with that view I have brought with me the real and the imitation, and believe me very few, even booksellers, know when they get morocco or roan. A few minutes' examination of the difference between these samples will well repay you the time you may spend over them. There is no leather which wears so well as morocco, good levant morocco, but avoid green colours if possible; the acid, I believe sulphuric, that is used in its preparation tends to rot the leather in no small measure.

I would also advise you not to have anything to do with russia. I do not know why, but the russia of the present day is not as it used to be, or what one should expect from it.

I have had, within the last year or two, pigskin manufactured expressly for binding, and I must admit having always had a liking for pigskin. The fact that there is so much grease in the skins must give it the power of resisting any attack of heated air, gas, &c., but I don't like the skins dyed in colours—the fat, animal fat, that is left in the skins, must darken the shades in time. At any rate, these pigskins run morocco very close, and perhaps, for hard wear, will prove to beat it, but this has yet to be seen.

I would make the suggestion that all your books be tipped at the corners with vellum. I noticed at the British Museum yesterday books so done; this suggestion is therefore not new.

Books as a rule get very great wear at the corners. If they be covered with leather, they sooner or later break and look indifferent, and if covered with cloth, as is often done, it soon wears away, but vellum seems to bind and hold the corners well together, and being much harder than leather, must be more durable. I would strongly advise all books for Library use being sided with cloth. I believe most of the books found now in a Library are so covered, and I think a middle grain lasts somewhat better than one of large grain. It is often recommended to use a cloth of smooth texture; I think this is a mistake, as every finger mark shows. But I would suggest that your books have a tight back. I mean the leather itself should be fastened direct upon the back of the book, without any paper between the leather and the back.

If the leather be glued, or rather pasted, direct to the back of the book, it gives to it, and there is no strain, but if paper be used, a strain is at once imparted directly the book is opened—the more paper the greater the strain.

Most, nay nearly all, books are bound with what is termed by binders "hollow back." This hollow back was introduced no doubt to meet the requirements of the stiff paper used in bookmaking, and it answers its purpose very well, but where strength has to be studied as a leading feature, have your books with a tight back.

Although not strictly bookbinding, I should like to make the suggestion that your rarer books be put in cases or boxes, not only to preserve them against time, but fire or damp.

It does not matter what kind of box is made, so long as it fits properly. I cannot altogether agree that a free current of air should circulate round each book, as was stated, on last Tuesday, should be the case. I strive to keep the air, especially London air, from my books, and feel certain that as long as I do not place them in the damp, or where the air gets quickly hot and suddenly cold, I shall see no ill effects.

I have studied the subject of boxes for valuable books, that will prove perfectly fire-proof, and after much trouble have succeeded in making one which meets this object. I invite you to inspect it, but you must not ask me to go more fully into the matter as it cost me much time and money and I wish to recoup myself.

There is no trouble in making boxes ; it is binders' work, and your local binder should be able to fit your books with such a pattern box.

In this Paper I have dealt with the binding of books that suffer the ordinary wear and tear of Library work. There are, of course, many exceptional books that require special treatment. But what I am most desirous of impressing upon you is the importance of having your binding properly executed by capable workmen. It may add to the expense in the first instance, but depend upon it in the long run it will prove more economical. It is not difficult to realise that good honest work will stand, when cheap *slop* binding has passed two or three times through the workman's hands. I have explained—I trust clearly—the essential points to be looked to. If this Paper induce any member of the Association to interest himself in the better execution of binding, I feel I shall not be taken to task for exposing what some may term "trade secrets."

THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAGAZINES AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, ABERDEEN.¹

By A. W. ROBERTSON, Librarian.

SOME curiosity having been expressed with regard to the arrangements, referred to in the last Annual Report of the Aberdeen Public Library, which have now for some time been in use in the reading room attached to the library, I have been induced to put together a brief account of them, which may have some interest for others than the curious few. It is true that since the issue of the report I have had some reason to believe that the device which I am now about to explain is, perhaps, not so singular or so original as at first I was disposed to think, there being at least one, and perhaps more than one, public library in the country provided with a system based on the same or similar principles, if not carried out in exactly the same manner. This, however, is rather an advantage than otherwise ; because, while it detracts in no way from the satisfaction I have had in working out a scheme of my own, it may enable those of us who are interested in the subject, as most public librarians are, to arrive by comparison of actual experience at a solution of a difficult problem as nearly satisfactory as may be.

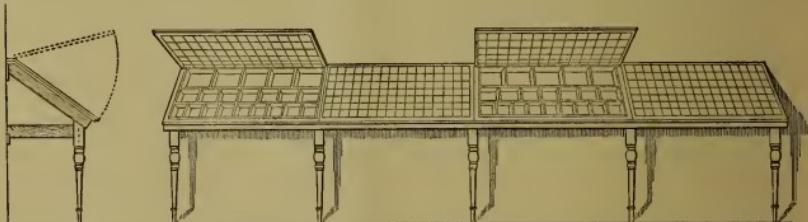
At the outset it may be well that I should allude to the circumstances which chiefly induced me, in making arrangements for the display and use of Magazines

¹ Read at the Monthly Meeting of the Association, December, 1886.

in the public reading room, to depart from the usual plan of simply laying them on the tables, with or without cases of some kind for their better preservation, and with or without a request, generally disregarded, to return the Magazines, when read, to some particular tables assigned to them.

In the first place then, as I had to deal with a room which, though well provided with a supply of the best periodical literature of the day, was small relatively to the number of those who were likely to resort to it, it was highly desirable, if not absolutely necessary, to adopt a system which should combine the greatest amount of orderliness with the largest amount of display and facility in use. (2) In order to multiply the reading resources of the room, as well as to encourage continuous reading, I was desirous of putting it within the power of visitors to read not only the current numbers of Magazines but all the back numbers of current volumes. (3) As the whole of the Magazines were destined to be bound, on the completion of their respective volumes, and to be incorporated in the stock of the lending library, it was desirable that they should receive as little injury as possible from their use in the reading room. Lastly, and most urgently of all, both experience and observation had combined to prove that the ordinary plan of laying out Magazines to be freely handled by all comers, while attended with a certain seeming liberty and open-handedness of treatment, is really the occasion of much inconvenience and disappointment. Where there are many readers and many Magazines, the latter all lying scattered over the tables, the search for some particular number is generally a troublesome and not infrequently a vexatious matter. The hapless visitor, failing to find it in what he may have some reason to regard as its accustomed place, sets off on a perambulation of the room, now peering over a reader's shoulder, now lifting or pushing a periodical in the hope of finding the errant article lurking under its ample folds, to find it at last, perhaps, safe in the hands of a reader snugly ensconced in some quiet corner.

It was to meet circumstances such as I have just indicated, that I had a wooden case made, of the general appearance and structure shown in the accompanying sketches. It is fitted against the wall of the room nearest to the entrance door and



close beside the keeper's desk. In length it is 16 feet, that being as much as is required to accommodate the magazines supplied, 6 inches deep, and 3 feet from back to front. The case is sloped at an angle of 45° , so as to bring the back row of magazines within easy reach of eye and hand, and is divided longitudinally into three unequal compartments, the lowermost one being the narrowest and the uppermost the broadest. Each of these compartments is again subdivided by transverse partitions into a number of smaller compartments, varying according to the size of the magazines they are intended to hold. The top or cover of the case consists of four frames hinged at the back and having a thin wire grating stretched across them, sufficiently close to prevent

improper hands getting at the magazines, but not so close as to interfere with a distinct view of the covers of the latter, or of the contents often printed thereon. Lastly, each of the smaller compartments has a number in plain figures affixed to it, which number is also given to the magazine usually placed in it, and represents it in all dealings with the borrower.

The effect of the whole arrangement just described is to enable every visitor to the room, as he enters, to ascertain at a glance both the nature of the entire stock of periodical literature supplied to the room and the particular numbers which, being unoccupied at the time, are at his disposal, while in many cases he can without further trouble get an idea of the nature of the contents. Should he desire to read any of the magazines before him, he has only to write the number assigned to the particular magazine on a form supplied for the purpose, subscribe his name, address, and occupation, and hand the form to the attendant, who in his turn will hand out the magazine desired. The form is then deposited in the compartment from which the magazine was taken, and remains there till the latter is returned by the borrower, when it is removed and filed.

The system, as I have described it, has been in operation since the opening of the reading room, fifteen months ago, and during all that time not a single complaint or unfavourable comment has been made regarding it. On the contrary, it has been frequently commended as conducing greatly to the comfort and convenience of readers. From my point of view, as librarian, the advantages of the system are equally great. The magazines, though issued to thousands of readers with no other coverings than the publishers', are yet, notwithstanding so much handling, in so clean and perfect a condition as to be quite fit to be bound and added to the stock of the lending library. It is certainly remarkable also that of the whole number of parts of magazines thus issued in the room, amounting to several hundreds, not one has been lost. As an attendant advantage of the system, it deserves also to be noted that it is possible to keep an exact record of the number of times each magazine is read, and to compile other returns relating both to the readers and the matter read, which may be both interesting and instructive.

I would only add, in conclusion, that the arrangement just described applies only to the better class of periodicals, chiefly monthlies and quarterlies. For weeklies, and especially for such large papers as the "Graphic," "Illustrated London News," and "English Mechanic," the usual plan of laying them on the tables in suitable covers is adopted. Naturally, however, owing to the elimination of the numerous monthlies, these do not come up to a great number, seldom more than half a dozen to a table, and consequently the trouble in getting hold of any particular paper is reduced to a minimum.

EXAMINATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

Questions set at the Examination, September, 1887.

I. ENGLISH LITERATURE.

1. By what works are the following persons chiefly known: Caxton, W. H. Prescott, Christopher North, Chillingworth, Christopher Anstey, Sir Thomas Elyot?
2. Who have written lives of Nelson, Cromwell, Garrick, Hume, Wellington, Queen Elizabeth, John Hampden?

3. Who wrote "The Pursuits of Literature," "Baviad and Maeviad," Piers Plowman's Crede," "Peter Pindar's Lyric Odes," "The Battle of the Books," "The Fable of the Bees," "Leviathan," "The Purple Island," "Polyolbion," "The Curse of Kehama," "The Tour of Dr. Syntax," "The Fool of Quality?"
4. Mention the names of some Englishmen who have written Autobiographies.
5. What plays were written by Goldsmith, Congreve, Sheridan, Middleton?
6. What do you consider the ten best English novels of the 18th century?

II. FRENCH LITERATURE.

1. Translate into English :—

Au total, la nature humaine est ici plus intacte. Sous cette éducation, les enfants ressemblent aux arbres d'un jardin anglais ; sous la nôtre, aux charmilles tondues et alignées de Versailles. Par exemple, ici, les enfants sont presque aussi libres que des étudiants ; ils sont tenus d'assister aux classes, aux répétitions, au dîner, et de rentrer le soir à une heure fixée, rien de plus ; le reste de la journée leur appartient ; à eux de l'employer à leur guise. La seule charge qui pèse sur ces heures libres est l'obligation de faire le devoir prescrit ; mais ils peuvent le faire où ils veulent et quand ils veulent ; ils travaillent chez eux ou ailleurs.

2. What is the meaning of : plaquettes romantiques, les encyclopédistes, langue d'oc, langue d'oïl, les précieuses?
3. Mention the names of six Frenchwomen who have distinguished themselves in literature.
4. By what works are the following persons chiefly known : Descartes, Amyot, Auguste Comte, Octave Feuillet, Gustave Flaubert, Bossuet, Comte de Maistre, Bernardin de Saint Pierre?
5. Who wrote "De l'Esprit," "Le Roman Comique," "Roman du Brut," "Les Derniers Bretons," "Voyage du Jeune Anacharsis," "La profession de foi du Vicaire savoyard," "Picciola," "Nos intimes," "Feuilles d'Automne"?

III. GERMAN LITERATURE.

1. Translate the following into English :—

Wir haben, Theurer Freund, nunmehr die zwölf Theile Ihrer dichterischen Werke beisammen, und finden, indem wir sie durchlesen, manches Bekannte, manches Unbekannte ; ja manches Vergessene wird durch diese Sammlung wieder angefrischt. Man kann sich nicht enthalten, diese zwölf Bände, welche in einem Format vor uns stehen, als ein Ganzes zu betrachten, und man möchte sich daraus gern ein Bild des Autors und seines Talents entwerfen. Nun ist nicht zu läugnen, dasz für die Lebhaftigkeit womit derselbe seine schriftstellerische Laufbahn begonnen, für die lange Zeit, die seitdem verschlossen, ein Dutzend Bändchen zu wenig scheinen müssen.

2. Give a list in order of their publication of Lessing's works.
3. Give some particulars of the life of Goethe.
4. Describe briefly the play of Faust.
5. Who were the men of "Sturm and Drang," when did they flourish, and what were their characteristics?

IV. CLASSIFICATION AND BIBLIOGRAPHY.

NOTE.—First-class candidates only are expected to answer the last two questions.

1. Catalogue the ten books before you according to the rules of the Library Association and classify them under sections and sub-sections.
2. Give the headings of sections (not less than ten) under which you would classify a collection of works on (1) theology, or (2) natural science : [a choice to be made of one or other of these classifications].
3. Explain the meaning of: Mazarine Bible, diplomatics, the Schoolmaster Printer of St. Albans, palimpsest, the Bollandists, bibliotaph.
4. Who were the inventors of: stereotyping, lithography, logotypy, the steam printing press ?
5. Whose are the best editions of Homer (in Greek), Plato (in Greek), Shakespeare, Milton, Spenser, Swift, Chaucer, Shelley, Bacon ?
6. What are the dates of the first two folio editions of Shakespeare ?

7. What are the best printed catalogues of private libraries known to you and give the chief characteristics of each.
8. Mention the names of those who have compiled bibliographies of anonymous and pseudonymous books.

V. LIBRARY MANAGEMENT.

NOTE.—First-class candidates only are expected to answer the last three questions.

1. By what names are the different forms and sizes of books ordinarily known, and from what part of the book are the names derived ?
2. In what proportion should shelf-room be provided for the accommodation of the various sizes of volumes in a collection of miscellaneous books—how many tenths for large volumes, how many for small ? Name each size.
3. In what order would you arrange on the shelves a miscellaneous collection so as to make each volume readily accessible to assistants and to readers ?
4. How would you arrange pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers ?
5. What kind of binding would you recommend (1) for books that circulate and (2) for books not allowed to circulate ?
6. How would you keep account of books issued from, and returned to a Lending Library ? and what protection against the loss of books would you devise ?
7. Describe the Indicator and its uses, and say which, in your opinion, is the best and why.
8. Name the newspapers and serials that you would recommend, in their order as daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly.
9. State the proportions in which a Free Library of 10,000 volumes in a provincial English town should consist of the various classes and languages requisite for a good general Library.
10. State what furniture, in addition to bookshelves, is indispensable for a Reference Library, a lending Library, and a Reading Room.

11. What is the best method of lighting, warming, and cleaning a Library. State also what protection against fire you would suggest.

12. Say what books you would recommend to a reader seeking information on "Modern History" or on "Darwinism" or on "Applied Science."
 13. How many assistants would be indispensable in a Library consisting of Reference and Lending Libraries, and Newsroom? and what would be the several duties of librarian and assistants?
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GOETHE IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

By FRANZ THIMM.

THE literature and writings on Goethe during the last forty years have been prodigious, and where, one might ask, can one find these books, or a catalogue of them? It is an almost incredible fact that there is not a public library in Germany where a complete collection of Goethe, and the various works and articles written on Goethe, can be found. The Leipziger Universitäts-Bibliothek is beginning to collect at last; but what do they possess at present? It is equally true that the Germans have no bibliography on Goethe, which would satisfy either the collector or the scholar. Hirzel, in Leipzig, possessed a Goethe-Bibliothek, which was a very extraordinary one. It was a collection of articles, notices, and reviews, written in the journals and newspapers of Germany, also an almost complete set of the separate early and first editions of Goethe, and a great number of works on the author, but far from being complete; for of Goethe one might well say what he wrote of Shakespeare, "Goethe und kein Ende." Hirzel's *Verzeichniss einer Goethe-Bibliothek*, republished in 1884, has one great fault; it catalogues articles and books under the date they were written or published; it extends from 1767 to 1883; but hence it is utterly useless for reference, and very defective. Balde's *Goethe-Literatur* to 1852, and Unflad's *Bibliography* to 1878, are both very unsatisfactory and very defective; and these are the chief bibliographical books of reference on Goethe. There is positively no library in Germany, either at Leipzig or Weimar, at Berlin or Vienna, or in any university town, that can at all compare with the present Goethe collection in the British Museum. Authors in search of Goethe materials, such as Carlyle or Lewes, need not go to Weimar in our present day for information, except to inspect manuscripts; they will find more in Museum Street than at Leipzig or Weimar. It is true the collection of notices and articles on Goethe, such as Hirzel's Library contained, will never be equalled, for the reason that they cannot be collected again, as most of them have utterly disappeared, and the British Museum collects only books with printed titles; but it possesses almost all the earliest editions of Goethe's separate works, most of the complete editions of his collected works, most of the translations in all the languages of Europe, hundreds of volumes of his correspondence with eminent men and women, thousands of books and pamphlets, dissertations and programmes, written on Goethe from the last century to this very day, not only in German, but in all the foreign languages of Europe. The new "Goethe Society" will be pleased to hear that it can find a Collection of Goethe Portraits in the Print Room, from his birth to his death, as well as of his parents, sister, and some friends, embracing 200 engravings, which is almost unique in Europe.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN CANADA.

Mr. James Yates, Public Librarian, Leeds, has been kind enough to communicate to us a number of letters which have been written in answer to enquiries made by the Secretary of State for Canada, at Mr. Yates's request, for information on the subject of Free Public Libraries in Canada. Our readers may be glad to have the following précis of the letters:—

Province of Nova Scotia: There are no public libraries in the Province of Nova Scotia, except the Legislative Library and the Library of the City of Halifax. The former receives a subsidy of \$400. per annum from the government in addition to the salary of the librarian and of the messenger.—The latter is not subsidized by the government. (Signed, W. B. Richey, Lieutenant-Governor, Sept. 7th, 1886.)

Prince Edward's Island: There are no public libraries in this province, except the Legislative Library, which is maintained entirely by the government. (Signed, A. A. Macdonald, Lieutenant-governor, 13 Sept., 1886.)

Ontario: Up to the year 1882, when the Free Libraries Act was passed by the Legislature of Ontario, no free libraries existed in the province. The Mechanics' Institutes, numbering 93, were supplied with libraries, and were in receipt of aid from the Provincial Government for their maintenance to the extent of from \$100. to \$300. each per annum, the sum allotted being in proportion to their income from members' subscriptions. In some cases also they received a small grant from the municipality. The total number of volumes contained in these libraries at the close of 1882 was 154,093.

On the passage of the Act of 1882, six towns and cities succeeded in carrying a popular vote in favour of the Free Library system, and in these places the Mechanics' Institutes voluntarily handed over their libraries and assets to the newly-appointed Library Board. The number has not increased since that date.

On May 31st, 1885, the latest date when authoritative information can be given, the number of vols. in the libraries, amount of grant from the Provincial Legislature, and amount of Municipal Rate, were as follows:—

	No. of Vols.	Grant for Legislature.	Municipal Rate.	Total Income.
116 Mechanics' Institutes .	179,572	... 24,970'00	... —	... —
6 Free Public Libraries :				
Berlin	2,066	... 300'00	... 939'50	... 1,270'00
Brantford	5,042	... 300'00	... 1125'50	... 2,001'00
Guelph	4,035	... 300'00	... 1110'50	... 1,462'00
Simcoe	2,742	... 300'00	... 400'00	... 903'00
St. Thomas	2,626	... 300'00	... 2450'00	... 2,687'00
Toronto (1886)	45,000	... 300'00	... 17,226'00	... 20,782'00
	<hr/> 241,083	<hr/> 26,770'00	<hr/> 23,251'00	<hr/> 39,105'00

The Library of the Legislature of Ontario and the various college libraries are not mentioned as coming within the scope of the enquiry. (Signed, J. B. Robinson, Lieutenant-governor, enclosing report from Mr. James Bain, Chief Librarian, Toronto, dated Sept. 29th, 1886.)

Manitoba: As yet such institutions are but in their infancy and the number limited. The Legislative Library with about 10,000 volumes is the principal one, and next to it that of the Historical Society. The former is entirely maintained at the expense of the government, and the latter receives an annual grant of \$250. A scheme for the encouragement of public libraries is under consideration, and may shortly come before the Legislature. (Signed, J. C. Aikins, Lieut.-governor, enclosing report from J. P. Robertson, Provincial Librarian, dated Oct. 28, 1886.)

New Brunswick: The only public libraries in New Brunswick are in the city of St. John, and the city of Portland, neither of these receiving aid from the Legislature or by local taxation. The Mechanics' Institute of St. John has a valuable library. (Signed, S. L. Tilley, Feb. 16, 1887.)

British Columbia: There are no public libraries in anything approaching the true meaning of the term in British Columbia. There are no libraries subsidized by the government in this Province. (Signed, Clement Cornwall, Lieut.-governor, March 14, 1887.)

EDITOR.

The Library Chronicle.

The LIBRARY CHRONICLE is issued on the 15th of the month, and communications, books for review, etc., intended for the forthcoming number should be addressed, not later than the 5th of the month, to the Hon. Editor, ERNEST C. THOMAS, care of Messrs. J. Davy & Sons, 137, Long Acre, W.C.

Members of the Library Association whose subscription for the current year has been paid are entitled to receive the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association cannot be responsible for the views expressed by the contributors to the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association.

BIRMINGHAM MEETING.

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Association will be held at Birmingham, in the Council House, by permission of the Mayor. The sittings will begin on Tuesday, September 20th, at 10 a.m.

The Papers to be read include: "Remarkable Private Libraries of the Town and Neighbourhood," by Mr. Sam. Timmins; "The Present Aspect of the Question, who was the Inventor of Printing," by Mr. William Blades; "Books before Printing," by Mr. J. W. Bradley; "Library Bye-laws and Regulations," by Mr. J. D. Mullins; "The Free Libraries of the Town and Neighbourhood," by Mr. R. K. Dent; "The Connexion between Free Libraries and Art Galleries and Museums," by Mr. Whitworth Wallis; "Subscription and Proprietary Libraries of the Town and Neighbourhood," by Mr. C. E. Scarse; "Some Experiments as to the Influence of Gas on Binding," by Mr. C. J. Woodward; "Wanted a Librarian," by Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister; "Town Libraries and Surrounding Districts," by Mr. Frank Pacy; "What to aim at in Local Bibliography," by Mr. F. Madan; "Thomas Hall and the old Library founded by him at King's Norton," by Mr. W. Salt Brassington; and "An Open Reference Library at Cambridge," by Mr. J. E. Foster.

On Tuesday there will be an excursion to Oscott, on Wednesday to Stratford-on-Avon, on Thursday to Lichfield, and a whole day's excursion on Friday to Althorp.

The Mayor of Birmingham has issued invitations to a Reception on Tuesday

evening, and on Thursday the President will entertain the members at dinner.

All communications as to local matters should be addressed to Mr. C. E. Scarse, the Local Hon. Secretary, Birmingham Library, Birmingham. All communications for the Hon. Secretary should be sent until Saturday, September 17th, to 2, Gray's Inn Square, London, W.C., after that date to the Council House, Birmingham.

FROST FUND.

We have received the following subscriptions to this fund: E. M. Borrajo, £1. 1s.; T. W. Newton, 10s. 6d.; E. C. Thomas, 10s. 6d.

Library Notes and News.

ASTON.—Under the auspices of the Free Library Lecture Society a large party visited Oxford on August 31.

BOLTON.—The corner stone of the new Branch Library in High Street was laid on August 27, by Mr. Alderman Fielding, Chairman of the Library Committee. Mr. John Heywood is the donor of the site. The building will cost £2,000.

BRIGHTON.—At a meeting of the Board of Guardians, on August 16, Councillor Hall brought forward two motions, dealing with the proposal that the Guardians vacate their present offices in order that the Free Library premises may be extended, so that a Free Lending Branch may be added.

CARDIFF.—At a meeting of the Free Library Committee on August 23, it was resolved—"That the Sub-committee consider the question of the practicability of Branch Reading Rooms or Libraries, and state if the same can be established within a brief period, and how soon they can be established." In answer to the request of the Committee for permission to raise a loan of £10,000 to extend the Free Library Museum, and Schools of Art and Science, the Treasury stipulate for the repayment within thirty years. This was considered by the Committee to be a fatal condition.

COLCHESTER.—The Jubilee Committee have only received about £40 out of the total promised towards the Free Library. The proposal to hand over the amount to

the School of Art, with a view to a Free Library being established in the same building at a future date has not been accepted by the subscribers at present. It has been decided to place the sum at the bankers on deposit.

DUBLIN.—The Librarianship of Marsh's Library, St. Patrick's, is vacant by the death of the Rev. Dr. Maturin.

FLEETWOOD.—At a meeting of rate-payers on August 23, it was unanimously resolved to adopt the Libraries Acts. It will be remembered that Mr. Samuel Fielden, of Todmorden, purchased and presented the Whitworth Institute to the town for the purpose of a Free Library. The name of the Institute will be altered to the Fielden Free Library and News Room.

FOLKESTONE.—The new building of the Free Library is on the point of completion so far as the external fabric is concerned. Mr. Brightwen Binyon, of Ipswich, is the architect. The cost of the building will be between £4,000 and £5,000.

GLOSSOP.—A grand demonstration took place at Glossop on July 30, in celebration of the magnificent Jubilee gifts which have been presented to the town by its most influential residents. The gifts represent a value of over £60,000, and comprise a public park, presented by Lord Howard of Glossop; a hospital, which is being built and endowed by Mr. Daniel Wood, of Moorfield House; public baths, erected by Mrs. S. Wood, of Talbot House; and a free library, the joint gift of Mr. Herbert Rhodes, of Thorncleiffe Hall, and Captain Partington, of Easton. Lord Howard also gives the land upon which the various buildings will stand, and Mrs. S. Wood defrays the cost of laying out the park.

GRANGEMOUTH.—At a meeting of the Library Committee on July 30, a letter from Mr. Andrew Carnegie was read, consenting to open the Public Library recently founded under the Free Libraries Acts. Mr. William Campbell has been appointed librarian.

LIVERPOOL.—We have to record the death of Mr. William Roscoe Jones at the age of 79. He was associated with the Athenæum in Liverpool for fifty-five

years: in the capacity of librarian for fourteen years, and master of the news-room for forty-one years.

LONDON: BERMONDSEY.—A public meeting was held in the Town Hall on July 25, to consider the adoption of the Libraries Acts. Mr. Lafone, M.P., presided. Sir James A. Picton attended to support the movement. It was unanimously resolved to ask the Vestry to take a poll of the parish.

LONDON: BISHOPSGATE.—On July 30, Mr. Justice Stirling sanctioned a scheme for the application of £21,000 to the purchase of a site for a library for Bishopsgate, as proposed by the Rector, Churchwardens and Trustees of St. Botolph Without.

LONDON: CITY LIBERAL CLUB.—Mrs. Fletcher, widow of the late George Hamilton Fletcher, has contributed £1,000 to the Library Fund of the City Liberal Club in memory of her husband. Amongst other donors Mrs. W. Newmarch, who placed at the disposal of the Committee the extensive library collected by her late husband, one of the founders of the Club. The Duke of Westminster has given a valuable collection of works on political subjects, amongst which are some rare reports of the House of Lords. After the erection in the hall of the statue of Mr. Gladstone, a balance of nearly £200 remained in the treasurer's hands, which was devoted to the purchase of works of Mr. Gladstone and of those illustrating his career. Since then various additions have been made, and now in the library are historical and biographical works of great interest, besides speeches and pamphlets on political subjects, with works on currency and banking enterprises, also an array of Directories, old and new, and information respecting the City Companies.

LONDON: HACKNEY.—The North-East London Institute, which was incorporated in December last, will commence its first session in Pembury-road, Hackney, on the 26th September. It comprises a school of music, and also a large and comprehensive scheme of evening classes in the various faculties of science, letters, and art; a reading room and library, and the usual adjuncts generally of a literary and scientific institution.

LONDON: ST. PANCRAS.—Vigorous efforts are being made to promote the introduction of the Free Libraries Acts here. It is intended to raise enough money to open several Free Libraries. The sum required is £30,000. Large donations are promised from various public bodies and private gentlemen.

MANCHESTER: ARDWICK.—The Free Public Libraries Committee presented a report to the Manchester City Council on July 27, with reference to the establishment of a Branch Library and Reading Room for Ardwick. The report stated that in consequence of limited resources the proposal is impracticable, and suggested a Reading Room without a Library, with a request to be allowed to select a site and submit plans and estimates.

MIDDLETON.—At the last Quarterly Meeting of the Middleton Town Council, it was resolved to purchase two plots of land for £3,400 for the purpose of erecting a free library and public recreation grounds, and, when requisite, municipal buildings.

OLDHAM.—The new Lending Department of the Central Free Library was opened on August 15.

OXFORD.—The late Mr. Charles Walker of Brighton, a well-known ecclesiologist, has bequeathed the whole of his library to the trustees of the Pusey Memorial Fund, with powers to sell it for the benefit of their trust. Mr. Walker is said to have possessed the most varied collection of works on ritual in England. At the death of his aged mother a further sum of £500 will revert to the Pusey Fund.

PONTYPRIDD.—The *South Wales Echo* of August 27 says—"It is suggestive to find that for the post of librarian of the Free Library, there are no fewer than 107 applicants of all grades and places, although the salary does not exceed fifteen shillings a week."

PORTSMOUTH.—The Library Committee have decided to accept Lieut.-Colonel Tovey's offer, on behalf of the War Department, of a piece of ground, now occupied by the ramparts, as a site for the Free Public Library building.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Mr. Thomas Pike has been appointed Librarian in the place of Mr. Laurence H. Inkster.

WIGTON.—A public meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute, on August 15, to consider Mr. W. Lawson's offer to sell his Free Library to the town. This library has been lent for some years by Mr. Lawson to Wigton, and he now wishes to sell it. On account of want of funds it was decided to thank Mr. Lawson for the loan of the library and the offer, but the meeting did not see its way to buy it.

YARMOUTH.—It is stated that suitable premises for the establishment of a Branch Library at Gorleston have been secured.

YORK.—The poll on the proposal to adopt the Libraries Acts was taken on September 3rd. The numbers were—for, 2015; against, 2832; majority against, 817. The subscription of over £5000 will be returned to the subscribers.

IN the House of Commons on August 12th, Mr. Howell asked the Attorney-General whether a London Vestry, elected under the Metropolis Management Act, could by section 3 of the Free Library Act, 1855, 18 and 19 Vic. c. 70, be interpreted to mean "a board," or "an authority" for putting into execution the Free Public Libraries Acts without the aid of Commissioners. The Attorney-General:—In reply to the hon. member's question I have to say that the point raised in his question is one of considerable difficulty. In my opinion, a London Vestry elected in the ordinary way is not "an authority" for putting into execution the Free Library Act of 1855 without the aid of Commissioners.

THE British Museum has issued a short pamphlet containing an "Explanation of the System of the Catalogue," which is sold at the price of one penny (8vo. pp. 6), we should be glad to see a revised edition of the famous xci. rules, which have not been printed, we think, since the Handbook to the Museum, issued a good many years ago.

THE *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*, in announcing the Birmingham meeting of the Library Association, asks: "Ob man wohl in Deutschland auch einmal eine ähnliche Versammlung zu Stande bringen könnte?"

M. L. J. Alvin, Conservateur en Chef of the Bibliothèque royale in Brussels,

died on the 17th of May. He had been head of the Library since 1850.

THE American Library Association issued a substantial programme for their annual meeting at the Round Island House, Thousand Islands (August 30 to September 2). A post-Conference excursion was arranged to start on September 3rd, for Montreal and Quebec, and thence for a thousand miles sea-trip to Nova Scotia, returning to Boston on the 14th. Mr. W. F. Poole is President for the year.

In the first number of the LIBRARY CHRONICLE we gave an account of the Bibliothèques Municipales of Paris, and called attention to their rapid development. In 1878 there were only nine altogether, of which five were little used and four practically unused. A special Bureau was then appointed by the Municipal Council to take charge of them, with the result that altogether twenty-two libraries had been opened in 1884, while the number of volumes lent rose from 29,339 in 1878 to 363,322 in 1882, and in the latter year the stock possessed by the twenty-two libraries was 87,831, and in 1883 it rose to 98,843. The report issued with the budget for 1887, shows that the number of books consulted in the libraries in 1886 was 145,601, and books taken home, 88,566, making a total of 1,031,167. This is an increase of 719,845 over 1882, and of 331,405 over 1884. The number of libraries has risen from twenty-two in 1882 to fifty-three in 1886. The proposed expenditure for 1887 is 207,400 fr., which will allow 3,368 fr. to each library.

WE have received the Circular of Information for 1887-8 of the Library and School of Library Economy at Columbia College, New York. The library now contains about 90,000 volumes, and should be well cared for, as the library staff under Mr. Melvil Dewey's direction consists of five librarians of departments and sixteen assistants, besides eight assistants from the senior class in the School of Library Economy. The Circular contains full information as to the course of study. We find recommended as a preparation for the library profession (1) The regular college course as a foundation; (2) The two years' course of lectures, reading, problems, seminars, object teaching and visits, with the actual experience in doing the various

kinds of work necessary in every considerable library. "The faithful student who has in this way spent two years in training should then be ready to begin a successful career in the library profession." The annual register of the school for 1886-7 shows a long list of lecturers and a list of twenty students, who will complete their full course in June, 1888. Seventeen of them are of the gentler sex, while one of the male students is described as "late assistant-librarian, Birmingham, England."

THE following letter on Prison Libraries, appeared in the *Daily News*, of June 26, from Mr. R. L. Ratcliffe:—"I often have occasion in my capacity as a solicitor to see persons in prison awaiting their trial, and I frequently hear complaints about the prison literature. On Saturday last I went to one of her Majesty's prisons to visit a man of good education, charged with a serious offence, and one in which it would be useless applying for bail. Upon his complaining of being kept weeks in prison before being tried, and knowing him to be an intelligent man, I asked him why he did not read, to which he replied that he quickly read the daily paper allowed to him, but the books he obtained from the prison library were mostly children's books, and torn. However, speaking with some relish, he said he had on one occasion received a volume of the *Leisure Hour*. Surely this is a matter that has been overlooked, for there are hundreds of books that would do little harm to a convicted person, much less a man or woman awaiting their trial and who might be ultimately acquitted. Evidently our prison libraries have not kept pace with the rapid strides that education has made. I trust by your kindly inserting this letter that it will be the means of interesting those who have more powerful interests than myself, and if their efforts are successful I feel sure they will receive the silent thanks of the many who have the misfortune to undergo the dreary monotony of prison life."



Library Catalogues and Reports.

Birkenhead Free Public Library. Thirty-first Annual Report, 1886-7, pp. 17.

The statistics in this report "give vivid illustrations of the sustained vigour of the Library, and the healthy and natural increase in the reading habits of the public." The Lending Library consists of 29,976 vols., and the Reference Library 9,070, of which numbers 1,668 were added during the year. The issues from the Lending Library were 150,832 vols., against 137,876 in 1885-6; and in the Reference Library 109,054, against 94,948 vols. issued during the preceding year—the total increase being 27,162 vols. "The increase has been in the better and more solid classes of literature." The newspaper reading arrangements were greatly improved, and a Students' Room was inaugurated during the year. The debt of £3,000 on the building was also reduced by £300. There are now 2,975 vols. of juvenile literature in the Lending Library, the year's issues of which were 29,196. Borrowers' tickets were issued to 1,538 persons. The rate realized £1,691.

Ealing Free Public Library. Fourth Annual Report, 1886-7, pp. 14.

"The advantages of the institution are increasingly appreciated by the inhabitants"—the year's issues being 102,852 vols., as compared with 92,590 vols. in 1885-6. Two vols. were lost. There were 806 vols. purchased. There are 5,275 vols. in the Lending Library, and 847 in the Reference. The rate realized £463, and the payments amounted to £482. The Librarian and Secretary is Mr. T. Bonner.

Leicester Free Libraries. Sixteenth Annual Report, 1887, pp. 40.

In the Central Lending Library the circulation has amounted to 117,549 vols.—a decrease of 18,770 on the previous year. 957 vols. were purchased during the year. The number of vols. in the Lending Library is 16,387, against 15,715 last year. In the Reference Department the number of issues was 26,660, against 25,781—an increase of 879 vols. There have been 90 vols. added to the Patent Library, raising that collection to 2,214 vols. This department now contains in all 8,694 vols. The issues from the Garendon Street Branch have been 45,396, against 48,211. The additions were 310 vols. Total issues from both departments were 47,557. The increase from the increased rate was £1,260 5s. 4d., and the year's expenditure leaves a balance in hand of £447 9s. 4d.

Liverpool Free Public Library, &c. Thirty-fourth Annual Report, 1886-7, pp. 32.

"Up to the present period every year has witnessed an extension of usefulness in some department, and during the year just passed a new Reading-room, being the fifth, has been opened at Low Hill with considerable success. . . . The other portions of the institution fully maintain their position, and . . . are appreciated and made use of by the public, who in some departments are still pressing for increased accommodation. Circumstances, however, have recently occurred which threaten seriously to affect in future the progress and development of the various branches, if not to require the abandonment of some. The institution has been hitherto maintained by a rate of a penny in the pound, supplemented by occasional grants from the surplus funds of the city. As no surplus at present exists, no aid from that quarter can be looked for, whilst, in consequence of an alteration in the mode of collection, the income from the rate is likely to diminish rather than increase. During the past year the expenditure was £13,458 . . . leaving a deficiency of £856." The Reference Library now contains 88,671 vols. (of which 2,242 were added during the year), the issues of which were 675,335 vols.—being a daily average of 2,507. The average nightly attendance at the five Reading-rooms was 315. The North Library contains 23,145 vols., and the South Library 22,611 vols., the issues from which during the year were 202,652 and 180,910 vols. respectively. Each of these Libraries has a membership exceeding 8,000.

Manchester. Report of the Directors of the Manchester Athenæum, and Resolution of the Fifty-first Annual General Meeting, 1887, pp. 23.

The financial statement gives the following income—£3,917 9s. 2½d. After providing for all expenses in every department, the Directors were enabled to transfer £242 to the Special Reserve Fund. The Library was opened for 299 days during the year for the delivery of books, and 90,177 vols. were issued : total number of vols. in the Library is 20,692. Mr. Charles W. Starkie is the Librarian.

We have received the following Supplements: Barrow-in-Furness Free Public Library. Supplementary Catalogue of the Books in the Reference and Lending Departments, 1887, 8vo, pp. 59.—Cheltenham Public Library. Third Supplement to the Catalogue of the Lending Department, 1887, 8vo, pp. 50.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Catalogue of Printed Books in the Library of the Foreign Office, 31st December, 1885.
London : printed by Harrison & Sons, 1886. 1a. 8vo, pp. xiv. 1220.

No one will be surprised to learn that the discussions upon cataloguing and the improved methods that have been evolved from them during the last few years have not yet been heard of in our Government departments. No one therefore will be very greatly surprised to hear that this catalogue has been prepared upon the mediæval method of arranging and cataloguing the books by sizes, under the headings of "Folios," "Quartos," "Octavos," and "Duodecimos." The catalogue, it is only fair to say, has elaborate indexes of authors and subjects. The "period of the contents" of the books catalogued is set out, and the catalogue is preceded by a synopsis of subjects. The works are numbered progressively under each size, and afford an indication of the extent of the library. The folios number 1344, quartos 1138, octavos 6680, duodecimos 1155.

Catalogue of the "Deffett Francis" collection in the Reference Department of the Swansea Public Library. . . . Swansea, 1887. 4to, pp. x. 300, hf. bd.

In 1876, Mr. J. Deffett Francis presented his library to the town, together with a considerable collection of drawings and engravings. Since then he has added a large number of books and pictures mutually illustrative of each other, and the books thus collected number now over 7,000 vols. The catalogue is an alphabetical catalogue of authors, titles, and subjects, and is handsomely printed in double columns. The Committee "desire to place on record their deep sense of obligation to Mr. Francis, and to express their conviction that the noble services he has rendered will, as they become more and more intimately known to his fellow-townsmen, form an enduring monument alike to his wisdom, his taste, and his generosity."

Leyland's Free Library & Museum and the Public Recreation Grounds, Hindley.
Wigan, 1887. 8vo, pp. 24.

"Hindley, not long ago a "secluded village," is now "a busy hive of industry." It has been fortunate in a series of benefactors, of whose lives and good deeds this little book gives an account—the Leylands, the Penningtons, and the Eckersleys. Mr. John Leyland died in 1883 without carrying-out his intention to establish a Free Library & Museum and Park for the benefit of Hindley. He made Mr. N. Eckersley his residuary legatee, and Mr. Eckersley has carried out his friend's intentions. The Acts were adopted in 1885, and the Institutions were opened this year. The book contains a view of the buildings, a plan of the park, and several portraits.

The last instalment of the Catalogue of the Reference Department of the Birmingham Free Libraries runs from Lardner to Parliament, and represents about 17,000 volumes. The entries under Law are 776, under London 311, Milton 268, Mines 402, Natural History 479, and Painting 204. The entries are models of conciseness.

The June number of *Library Notes* just received contains articles on "Libraries on Special Authors," the "A.L.A. Standard Accession-book," and the "Evolution of the Card System," with a great variety of notes on various practical questions.

Mr. J. H. Hessels has concluded, in the *Academy* for August 13th, his series of articles on the History of Printing, which began so far back as April 30th. In the last article Mr. Hessels sums up his argument, which is, at the same time, a serious indictment of Van der Linde's latest three-volume exposition of the subject. We understand that Mr. Hessels intends to reprint these articles.

Messrs. Trübner & Co. desire us to correct the statement contained in their advertisement in our last number to the effect that the plates of Poole's Index to Periodical Literature were about to be destroyed. Mr. Poole, who is the sole owner of the stereotype plates of the work in question, has no intention of destroying them, and will shortly issue a Supplement from 1882 to 1887.

Correspondence.

RICHARD DE BURY'S PHILOBIBLON.

1 Sept., 1887.

Upon receiving Mr. L. Delisle's courteous note, I applied to Dr. Auermann, the Royal Librarian at Erfurt, for the loan of the MS. of De Bury. It arrived at the British Museum towards the end of August, but upon examining it I discovered that the MS. of the Philobiblon had at some time been abstracted from the volume. Upon communicating with Dr. Auermann; he informed me that this fact is noted in Dr. Schum's catalogue. I had not seen the catalogue myself, and M. Delisle appears to have overlooked the note : " *herausgeschnitten*. "

E. C. THOMAS.

A LIBRARIANS' FUND.

At the close of a Paper read at the First Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Mr. Harrison made a very excellent and practical suggestion, viz., that a fund should be started for the purpose of assisting librarians who might be incapacitated through illness from gaining their livelihood, and for the relief of those dependent upon librarians in the case of death. Has not the time now arrived to establish such a fund? The important impetus given to the library movement in this Jubilee year, and the Annual Meeting of our Association being held in such a centre as Birmingham, appear to give special appropriateness to 1887 for the inauguration of the "Librarians' Fund." As Mr. Harrison pointed out, there is hardly a trade or profession, however insignificant, which has not some such provident institution associated with it; and if, for example, such a wealthy body as the members of the London Stock Exchange consider such provision for the future desirable, how much more important does it become when we treat of a class which, at the best, is inadequately remunerated, and whose opportunities of putting by "for a rainy day" are consequently very few.

The *minimum* subscription to such a fund should be a guinea for librarians, and half-a-guinea for library assistants; and great care should be exercised in the selection of a committee to administer the fund with economy, judgment, and delicacy. The customary annual dinner, at which some distinguished man should be invited to preside, would further assist the fund, and form a pleasant social event for librarians.

Allow me very earnestly to commend the scheme to the attention of all the members of the Library Association, not so much on their own account (although no man can tell what the morrow has in store for him) as for the loved ones whom they would leave behind, and who might, in case of necessity, become claimants on the fund without loss of self-respect, and as a matter of right.

I have much pleasure in enclosing a cheque for £1 1. for the fund you are raising on behalf of the children of the late A. J. Frost. EDWARD M. BORRAJO.

11, Cromwell Place, Highgate, N.

BOOKS AND BILLIARDS.

Wigan, August 20th, 1887.

I send by this post a local paper, which suggests in its columns that this Library should take over and administer the *Mechanics' Institution*. In Wigan, like, I believe, most other provincial towns where Free Libraries have been adopted, the *Mechanics' Institution* has gradually died out. It is not yet dead here, but is really only kept alive by the receipts from its two *billiard tables*. What I should be glad to see you ventilate, with some editorial comment, is whether the combination of books and billiards, even if the latter be worked under strictly teetotal principles, is a satisfactory arrangement. At the new "Leyland Free Library" (worked under the Acts) at Hindley, near here, a billiard room, with teetotal drinks, &c., is added to the Free Library. The receipts, I suppose, are used for the general maintenance of the Institution—added to the penny rate. Is this legal? The innovation is so important that I think you should notice it.

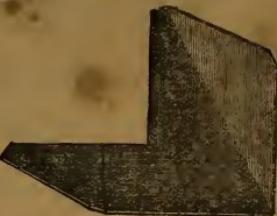
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